

THE GREAT BANQUETING HALL,
CROSBY HALL.
BUILT A.D. 1466.



CROSBY HALL,

March, 1876.

RECENT EXTENSIONS ADJOINING THE ANCIENT CITY PALACE.

Since the inauguration of CROSBY HALL as a Public Luncheon and Dining Establishment, four editions of this book have been called for, a circumstance which is deeply gratifying, not only because it is an evidence of the success of a large commercial undertaking, but also because it is a proof that the intentions of the Proprietors have been on the whole fairly carried out, and that while the magnificent old building has been faithfully preserved it has been adapted to the requirements of the present day, in a manner not unworthy of its historical name and reputation. It would have been impossible for such an enterprise to achieve success, if the efforts of its originators had not been understood and completely endorsed by the general public, and by a very large number of friends and patrons who have displayed a kind and constant interest in it, and in the improvement which it was designed to effect in the economical provision of good and well-served refreshments for those whose business or pleasure lead them frequently to lunch or dine in the City.

The Proprietors therefore gladly take the present opportunity of endeavouring to convey their sincere thanks to those who have supported them by their presence and stimulated them by their approval.

The result of the appreciation, for which they have reason to be grateful, has been that while the GRAND OLD BANQUETING HALL and the THRONE ROOM continue to receive their large number of guests daily, it has become necessary, very considerably, to extend the accommodation provided for Coffee and Luncheon in the COUNCIL CHAMBER, while for the comfort of gentlemen who smoke, a larger room has become absolutely essential. For these reasons, the Proprietors have not hesitated to avail themselves of the first opportunity to increase the space at their command, so that without altering, or in the slightest degree injuring

the original ancient structure, *they have added so considerably to the facilities at their disposal that the Establishment may, with truth, be said to be unequalled in the City, if not in London.* By making these improvements the LUNCHEON COUNTERS are extended far beyond their previous dimensions, while the arrangements for preparing and serving TEA AND COFFEE are much more ample and complete. The spacious apartment above the Great Luncheon Hall is devoted to a large and sumptuously appointed Smoking Room, furnished and decorated in a style which is in complete accordance with the ornamentation of other parts of the building, and for richness of colour, beauty of effect, and artistic completeness is no unworthy addition even to the Ancient City Palace, which is itself regarded as a magnificent Example of Architectural and decorative skill.

THE NEW LUNCHEON HALL,

like THE COUNCIL CHAMBER, is distinguished for the Historical Paintings which adorn its walls, as well as for its fine Stained Glass Windows. The latter, as viewed from the entrance, consist of Ornamental Ground Work surrounding busts of various Rulers of England, representing successive historical periods, viz.: Julius Cæsar (Roman), Canute (Danish), Alfred the Great (Saxon), William I. (Norman), Edward I. (Plantagenet), Henry V. (Lancastrian), Edward IV. (York), Henry VII. (Tudor), Charles I. (Stuart), George I. (Hanoverian). The panelled spaces between the windows are occupied with figure portraits of Oliver Cromwell, Prince Rupert, Earl Stafford, and General Monk, while representations of Peace and Plenty appropriately face the visitor in the windows at the end of the room.

The wall paintings represent the entry of Edward IV. into London, and the Coronation of Henry VII. on the Field of Bosworth; while portraits of Pitt and Fox occupy the two panels. A very curious and interesting relic of Ancient Roman London was discovered in making the foundations for the New Buildings; it consists of a fine specimen of Tessellated Pavement, not unlike some of the best examples which have been found in other parts of the City; the workmen came upon it at about twelve feet below the surface, at the south corner of Great St. Helens, and it is believed to have formed part of the Atrium of a Villa, erected about A.D. 275, in the time of the Empress Helena, who was a native of

England and mother of Constantine. This relic has been inserted in the wall near the front of the staircase leading to the NEW SMOKING ROOM.

THE SMOKING ROOM

has been so constructed that while ventilation is secured, there is no unpleasant draught. Its great space affords ample accommodation for a large number of visitors, and the whole of the furniture and accessories are adapted to the complete comfort of the guests. The CROSBY HALL SMOKING ROOM is intended to be a place where gentlemen may find the complete repose so necessary for the enjoyment of a cigar. CHESS AND DRAUGHTS are provided, and in a large special recess a table with writing materials is placed for the convenience of visitors who desire to indite notes or letters.

The whole of the decorations and appointments of the Smoking Room are in accordance with the most ornamental portions of the main building, and the Proprietors of Crosby Hall are satisfied that apart from the purpose to which it is devoted, the room itself is worthy of being visited for the beauty and completeness of its ornamentation. Following out with rather greater elaboration the style adopted in the Luncheon Room and the Council Chamber, the ceiling of the Smoking Room is divided into panels containing the Badges of England, the Rose, Port-cullis, Fleur de Lys, and Pomegranate, a variation appearing in the ceiling of the recess, where each of the panels is emblazoned with the Garter.

The large wall Paintings, which are very finely executed, represent "The Presentation of the Infant Princess Elizabeth to Henry VIII," and (in the recess) Shakespeare reading his Plays to Queen Elizabeth; a subject not inappropriate when it is remembered that the Great Dramatist was once an inhabitant of St. Helens, where his name appears on the rate-book. Figures of Prince Hal, Falstaff, and Sir Walter Raleigh occupy the intervening panels, while in the spaces between the windows a series of very attractive medallions represent the twelve signs of the Zodiac.

The Stained Glass Windows of this room are exceedingly fine, as they contain a series of admirably designed figures, representing Fortitude, Patience, Purity, Justice, Truth, Love, Charity, Victory, and Mercy, while each figure is surmounted by a shield, bearing a suitable motto. These form the series of

windows extending for the length of the room. The bay window at the end is decorated with fine medallions of the four Seasons, while the one opposite exhibits a figure of Whittington. The recess is lighted by a special window, very beautifully executed, and displaying figures of Mary Queen of Scots and Lady Jane Grey.

The Proprietors of CROSBY HALL are at once proud and grateful to be able thus to call attention to the extension of their enterprise. To the very great number of those who are constant friends and supporters—those who make CROSBY HALL their frequent and even daily resort, and on whom the success of the whole enterprise must depend—it is difficult, nay, impossible, to convey such thanks as the occasion demands. All that can be said is, that mere profit and business advantage, irrespective of that kind of sentiment which it may be hoped is above the mere sordid consideration of gain, has not been the principle on which the undertaking has been established, and that it never shall be. There may still remain some matters in which improvement is needed. It is difficult to attain perfection, but at least every effort shall be made to render the organisation of the ancient City Palace as complete as possible, and, by that constant endeavour, thanks will be best expressed to those who “Repair to Crosby Place.”

FREDERICK GORDON & Co.

March, 1876.



CROSBY HALL,

BISHOPSGATE.

ITS EARLY HISTORY AND PRESENT RESTORATION.



CROSBY HALL is one of the most interesting buildings in the Metropolis, and may be said to be the only authentic example of Gothic domestic architecture belonging to that period when the merchant princes began to take rank with the nobles of the Court. The Great Hall at Westminster is perhaps the finest existing specimens of the public buildings of ancient London (omitting of course ecclesiastical edifices), and CROSBY HALL is the most striking and splendid of those palatial residences, only a few of which were erected in the City.

It is remarkable, considering how closely this grand old building has been identified with the history of the country, that it should have been permitted to undergo such strange vicissitudes in its own fortunes, and it is yet more wonderful that notwithstanding those vicissitudes it should have been spared from the alterations and adaptations which too often deface and destroy some of the most beautiful structures of a past age. The truth seems to be that CROSBY HALL was so nobly planned and built as to restrain by the force of its own beauty the unhallowed hands which might otherwise have desecrated it; while its history and associations were in themselves so interesting that they secured its public recognition, and forbade the destruction of a building that had been able to defy the touch of Time himself, and seemed only to have mellowed into a more solemn beauty as the years went by.

Not that the entire edifice, which was originally called Crosby Place or Crosby House, remains standing. The less important portion exists no longer, and the building which has for so long been known as CROSBY HALL is in fact the Grand Banqueting Room, the Council Chamber, the State Reception Room, and

some other apartments belonging to the Palace, Court-yard, and Garden, which once occupied the site of what is now Crosby Square.

This splendid mansion of Crosby Place was built in 1466 by Sir John Crosby, on the ground leased from Dame Alice Ashfield, Prioress of the Convent of Saint Helene. For this ground, which had a frontage of 110 feet in the "King's Road of Bishopsgate Streete," he paid £11 : 6 : 8 a-year, no small sum in those days, and immediately set about the erection of the hall and dwelling house, which was afterwards described as being "ye highest and "fairest in ye Citie."

Sir John Crosby, Member of Parliament for London, Alderman, Warden of the Grocer's Company, and Mayor of the Staple of Calais, was the eminent grocer and woolstapler, who with eleven others received the honour of knighthood in the field for their gallantry in resisting the attack made by the Bastard Falconbridge on the City. Sir John Crosby died in 1475, four years after the completion of the building to which he gave his name, and was buried in the Church of St. Helen, where his tomb may still be seen, bearing upon it the recumbent figures of himself and his wife. The knight is fully armed, but wears over his armour his Alderman's mantle, and round his neck a collar of suns and roses, the badge of the house of York.

In the following year, 1476, Crosby House became a palace in name as well as in reputation, in consequence of the widow of Sir John Crosby parting with it to Richard, Duke of Gloucester, afterwards Richard the Third. Then Crosby Place, like the less important Baynard's Castle, became the scene of those intrigues by which the wily Richard obtained the Crown, and must have been peculiarly convenient to him as a residence, both from its contiguity to the Tower, where first King Henry VI., and afterwards the Princes, were confined, and from its occupying a prominent place in the City, where he had influential and doubtless sincere supporters, and where he was anxious to obtain the suffrages of the people. The choice of Crosby House as a Palace may indeed be included among those devices by which Richard achieved success; for in its magnificent apartments he was able to hold a sort of regal state, and having, as Sir Thomas Moore says, "lodged "hymself in Crosby's Place, where, by little and little, all folks "drew unto, so that the Protector had the Court, and the King was "in a manner left desolate;" he began at once to aspire to the Crown, which in 1483 was offered to him in the *Council Chamber* of CROSBY HALL by the Mayor, Sir Thomas Billesden, and a deputation of Citizens.

We are most of us familiar with the story of Richard's treachery during his residence at this City Palace, and not a few of us have learnt by heart that most familiar of all the plays of Shakspeare in which the story is told. CROSBY HALL occupies a conspicuous position in the drama of Richard the Third, and it is evident that the Poet had ample opportunities for studying the building itself;—

probably the play was written in the immediate vicinity of the building, or possibly even next door, for we know from the Parish Assessments that he was a resident in St. Helen's in 1598, and from the amount of the sum levied must have occupied a house of some importance.

It is in the Third Act of Richard the Third that the allusions to Crosby Place occur, and in that most enthralling portion of the play where the Duke is plotting with awful dissimulation to win at once a queen and a crown, to both of which he had been a traitor. It was the last achievement of his triumphant falsehood to induce Anne to await at Crosby Place his return from the funeral of the King, his father-in-law. The wonderful chain of lies winds up with the words:—

“And if thy poor devoted servant may
 “But beg one favour at thy gracious hands,
 “Thou dost confirm his happiness for ever.”

Anne (who is already yielding to his serpent's tongue), says

“What is it?”

and he replies .

“That it may please you leave these sad designs
 “To him that hath most cause to be a mourner,
 “And presently repair to Crosby Place.”

In the following scene, the action is still laid in reference to Crosby Place, where the murderers who have been commissioned to destroy Clarence in the Tower are to meet Richard after they have accomplished their evil work.

“*Gloucester*—Are you now going to despatch this thing?

“*First Murderer*—We are, my lord; and*come to have the warrant,
 That we may be admitted where he is.

“*Gloucester*—Well thought upon: I have it here about me.

[*Gives Warrant.*]

“When you have done, repair to Crosby Place.”

Again, in the Third Act, where, after the meeting of Gloucester with the Prince of Wales, the Cardinal, and the nobles in a street in London, and when Buckingham and Richard sent Catesby to tamper with the wretched Hastings, Gloucester says:—

“Shall we hear from you, Catesby, ere we sleep?”

“*Catesby*—You shall, my lord.”

“*Gloucester*—At Crosby Place there you shall find us both.”

During the time of Shakspeare's residence in the parish, CROSBY HALL was in the occupation of Sir John Spencer, a London merchant, known by, what to some people would be the enviable name, of “the rich” Spencer. In 1594 he bought the palace for £2560, and afterwards held his Mayoralty there in splendid style, the celebrated Duke of Sully, then French Ambassador to the English Court, being one of the guests, who were lodged and entertained

in right royal fashion. Sir John Spencer's daughter was married to the first Earl of Northampton, and the wealth of the great London merchant served to increase the revenues of the succeeding marquises.

Between the time when the Duke of Gloucester became King Richard the Third and the year in which Shakspeare wrote his noble drama, CROSBY HALL had been in possession of several masters. The palace seems at once to have been recovered by the then Lord Mayor of London as the appropriate residence of the chief magistrate of the Metropolis, and in 1501 Sir Bartholomew Reade took possession of it, and during his mayoralty entertained and lodged the ambassadors who came from Maximilian of Germany. The famous Banqueting Hall was in full occupation at this time; and in reference to the distinguished guests received there, Stowe himself thinks one feast worthy of record for its great magnificence. Fifteen years afterwards (in 1516) we find Sir John Rest installed at CROSBY HALL, after one of the most remarkable "Lord Mayor's Shows" on record, in which there appeared, according to the veracious chronicler, four giants, one unicorn, one dromedary, one camel, one ass, one dragon, six hobby-horses, and sixteen naked boys.

What was the symbolical significance of these remarkable objects we are not informed, but it may be remembered that the display had very little moral effect on the London 'prentices, for it was in that very year that the disturbances began which ended in the tragedy of what has ever since been known as "The evil May day," when the 'prentices and journeymen determined to assault the foreign artisans and merchants.

The cry of "down with the Lombards" was heard on the night of the 30th of April, when the young men were at buckler play in Chepe, and the mischief began by an attack on a calender of worsted, a native of Picardy, who lived near Leadenhall. Very soon a general attack was made in several quarters upon the foreign dealers and workmen, who fled for their lives, leaving their goods to be destroyed. The gaol of Newgate was broken open, and some of the assailants who had been imprisoned there were released; the work of destruction went on all night, and when the May-day morning broke there was still a crowd in the streets, especially near the church of St. Andrew Undershaft, which occupied an open space in Leadenhall Street, where Lime Street now stands. Here the "Great Shaft of Cornhill," the mighty maypole, which had given the very church its name, was being set up, its top reaching above the steeple; but there were no May-day revels that morning, for the shout of the crowd of rioters was echoed by an answering shout, and an armed force from the Tower bore down upon the 'prentices and carried them off to that stronghold to be tried for their lives. Fifteen unhappy creatures were executed, and the rest went to Westminster Hall, half naked and tied together with ropes, each with a halter about his neck. There they besought the mercy of the King, and were

pardoned. But the first of May, 1517, has ever since been known as the evil May-day, and the Great Shaft was reared nevermore, but hung on hooks under the pent houses of Shaft Alley for thirty-two years, until the Reformation, when it was denounced as an idol by some zealous preacher, whose hearers, as Stowe says, "after they had well dined to make themselves strong," sawed it in pieces and divided the logs amongst them.

Long before that, however, CROSBY HALL had passed into new hands. No less distinguished a person than Sir Thomas More, Under Treasurer, and afterwards Lord High Chancellor of England, became its occupant. Here he received the visits of Henry VIII., and here he doubtless wrote some of those works which have contributed so much to his fame. Erasmus, who was his intimate friend and frequent guest, thus speaks of the domestic life of the author "Utopia":—"With him "you might imagine yourself in the academy of Plato; but I "should do injustice to his house by comparing it to the academy "of Plato, where numbers and geometrical figures, and sometimes "moral virtues, were the subjects of discussion; it would be more "just to call it a school and an exercise of the Christian religion. "All its inhabitants, male and female, applied their leisure to "liberal studies and profitable reading, although piety was their "first care. No wrangling, no idle word, was heard in it; every "one did his duty with alacrity, and not without a temperate "cheerfulness." Surely these were the palmy days of CROSBY HALL.

On being made Speaker of the House of Commons in 1523, Sir Thomas More sold CROSBY HALL to his "dear friend" Antonio Bonvici, a merchant of Lucca, to whom the Chancellor sent that well-known letter from the Tower, written with a piece of charcoal, the night before his execution. After the dissolution of the convent of Saint Helene, Bonvici purchased the property of the King for £207 : 18 : 4, and so CROSBY HALL became a freehold, though not much to his immediate advantage, for in 1549 he forfeited the property "by illegally departing the kingdom," in consequence of the persecution, and Henry VIII., with his usual indifference to the rights of others, granted it to Lord Darcy of Chule. This nobleman, however, was induced, for "divers good causes," to restore it to its proper owner on the accession of Queen Mary in 1553. It remained without any remarkable change until 1560, when we find it occupied by German Cioll, who had married a cousin of Sir Thomas Gresham. A weekly bequest of this lady, Mistress Cycillia Cioll, is still distributed in Saint Helen's Church.

Again, in 1566, CROSBY HALL changed hands, and became the residence of Alderman Bond, the inscription on whose tomb in Saint Helen's Church describes him as "a Merchant Adventurer, "and most famous in his age for his great adventures by both sea "and land."

It was at CROSBY HALL that D'Assonleville, the Spanish Ambassador was entertained by this civic Sindbad, and after the Alderman's

death, when his sons occupied the palace in 1586, the Danish Ambassador, Ramelius, was made an honoured guest there, and treated with all the sumptuous hospitality that belonged to the Elizabethan age. It was during the time of "the rich Spencer," however, that CROSBY HALL was probably most distinguished, for the splendour of that mayoralty is traditional. The Queen herself was the guest, and we might, in imagination, repeople the old hall with the brilliant company that came and went; their very names a roll-call of the history of England during the period of England's growing fame and honour; Raleigh, Spencer, Sidney, Grenville, perhaps Drake and Hawkins, and the rest of those great men, all of whom were in sympathy with "merchant adventurers," in days when Richard Hakluyt was at Oxford, and Edward Osborne, clothworker and ancestor of the Dukes of Leeds, had but six years before served his mayoralty, with Spencer for Sheriff, and the mercantile navy of Great Britain had founded the empire of the sea. It was six years after the defeat of the Spanish Armada that Sir John Spencer lived at CROSBY HALL. Need one say more in order to conjure up a scene that may well make the heart heave and the eye brighten? And yet four years afterwards a man lived close by, whose name is more potent than that of any in that brilliant assembly; a man who stands first, not only in the muster-roll of that period of English history, but who stands in the very foremost rank among the thinkers of all time—WILLIAM SHAKSPEARE. The great dramatist had at that time become a joint proprietor in the theatre at Bankside, and doubtless found it convenient to live in this quiet courtly nook in the city.

In 1603 Shakspeare probably assisted at the entertainment of the Ambassadors from Holland and Zealand, who lodged at CROSBY HALL at that time, but in 1609 he had gone to live at Stratford, while his friend, Ben Johnson, was in London, perhaps waiting on the Dowager Countess of Pembroke, who then occupied the City Palace. Most of us remember Johnson's celebrated epitaph on this celebrated woman:—

"Underneath this sable hearse
Lies the subject of all verse,
Sidney's sister, Pembroke's mother;
Death! ere thou canst find another,
Good and fair, and wise as she,
Time shall throw a dart at thee."

Johnson, who survived Shakspeare, was perhaps a guest at CROSBY HALL when, in 1630, it came into possession of Spencer, Earl of Northampton, who inherited it by the marriage of his father with the only daughter of the Sir John Spencer already referred to. This nobleman was killed fighting by the side of Charles I. at the battle of Hopton Heath, in 1642. He had then leased CROSBY HALL to Sir John Langham, Sheriff of London, and the king's cause having been defeated, the Great Hall was used as a prison in which royalists were detained for trial. An order of the House of Commons, dated 7th December, 1642, directs the

removal of ten prisoners from Crosby Place to Gresham College, and thence on the 19th to Lambeth House. The vicissitudes of this grand old building may be said to have commenced from that period, though strange to say it escaped the great calamity of the fire of London; the house alone being injured, and the hall itself remaining unscathed.

For the next twelve years there is nothing very remarkable to record. The "Merry Monarch" spent his subjects' money merrily in the midst of his "merry Court," and the City lost its old influence. All England lost its influence, and public honour and virtue seemed about to wither under that "Merry Monarch" of misrule. It must be said in Charles's favour, however, that he was no persecutor, and there was a leaven in the nation which did suffice to leaven the whole lump—a leaven associated with the word patriotism, but which will be also found in the lives and works of those eminent teachers, preachers, and politicians, known as the Puritan Divines.

It is in connection with these that we discover CROSBY HALL, in 1672, with a floor put into the Great Hall, so that the upper part of it, from the level of the minstrel's gallery, might be used for a Nonconformist meeting, under license of the Indulgence Act. For ninety-seven years it was devoted to this purpose, and during that time twelve different ministers succeeded each other, some of them men of high distinction indeed, the first being Thomas Watson, previously Rector of Saint Stephen's, Walbrook, and the author of the tract, "Heaven taken by Storm," which is said to have been the means of the conversion of the celebrated Colonel Gardiner. A numerous and wealthy congregation assembled at CROSBY HALL, and Thomas Watson was succeeded by the more celebrated Stephen Charnock.

The ministers who officiated there after Charnock were Samuel Slater, M.A., John Reynolds, Daniel Alexander, Benjamin Grosvenor, D.D., Samuel Wright, D.D., John Barker, Clerk Oldsworth, Edward Calamy, Jun., John Hodge, D.D., and Richard Jones. Two years after the adaptation of the building to this purpose, that is to say, in 1674, the dwelling house, which adjoined the hall, and occupied the present site of Crosby Square, was burnt down, but the hall remained still uninjured.

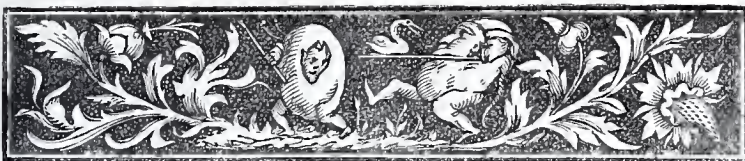
For some time afterwards the grand old building remained unassociated with any especial public event, although the *Mercury* of May 23rd, 1678, advertises a public sale at CROSBY HALL, where "ye late general post office was kept," the articles for sale including "tapestry hangings, a good chariot, and a black girl about fifteen years of age." In 1692 the property was purchased by the family in whose possession it still remains,* and the lower part of the hall was let as a wholesale warehouse; and in 1700 it seemed about to take rank again as an important public building, for the Council Chamber and Throne Room were occupied by those "Merchant

* The Freehold was in 1872 purchased by Messrs. FREDK. GORDON & Co.

Adventurers" trading to the East Indies, who afterwards formed the East India Company, and obtained their privileges by Royal Charter. This was probably only during the building of the India House, however, for we hear little of CROSBY HALL until sixty-nine years afterwards, when it was disused as a meeting house, the last sermon being preached on the 1st of October, 1769, by the Rev. Richard Jones, the congregation removing to Maze Pond.

There was indeed great fear that this magnificent hall would be utterly wrecked, for it was let to private individuals, whose adaptations were likely to do it serious damage. It was greatly owing to the public spirit of Miss Hackett, a lady who lived beside it, that this almost unique example of domestic Gothic architecture was ultimately preserved. In 1831 this lady made strenuous efforts for its conservation, and received valuable assistance from Mr. W. Williams, of Great Saint Helen's, and other residents, some of whom still remain in the neighbourhood. In 1836 it was reinstated and partially restored by public subscription, after which it was re-opened by the Lord Mayor, W. T. Copeland, Esq., M.P., a banquet in the old English style being held on the occasion. In 1842 the entire premises were occupied by a Literary and Scientific Institute, the hall being let from time to time for Lectures and Concerts; but in 1860 this society came to an end, and the place was then taken by Messrs. H. R. Williams & Co., the well-known Wine Merchants. In Mr. H. R. Williams's hands CROSBY HALL underwent no damaging alteration; and although it was used for purposes of business, due regard was had to its historical reputation and its intrinsic beauty. It is only just to add that its late occupiers fully appreciated and carefully preserved it from injury; but we may be forgiven for saying that there were no conditions under which it was possible really to restore it to its original beauty, except those which included its restoration to its original *purpose*. We trust that both these objects have been attained, and that as the City Banqueting Hall of the present the public will recognise and admire the CROSBY HALL of the past.





CROSBY HALL,

BISHOPSGATE.

THE RESTORATION OF THE GREAT BANQUETING ROOM, THE THRONE ROOM, AND THE COUNCIL CHAMBER.



It is believed that the restoration of this magnificent building to its original purpose of a GREAT BANQUETING HALL will secure it from decay or demolition, and preserve to the City one of the most attractive objects which have been spared by the necessities of modern innovation. At the same time, by securing CROSBY HALL as a Public Dining Establishment, the proprietors are satisfied that they will be able to meet one of the most pressing and constant requirements of City life, by enabling both employers and *employés* engaged daily in mercantile pursuits to obtain their principal meal in comfort and even with elegance, at a price consistent with the strictest economy.

It has hitherto been almost impossible to provide even for a large number of customers a dinner which should combine excellence of quality, prompt and comfortable service, convenient and elegant appointments, and at the same time should not cost more than the majority of those who wished to avail themselves of it could afford. The difficulty has arisen first from the fact that the City Dinner hour is mostly the middle of the day, and in connection with this, that it is almost impossible to obtain spacious premises on a "ground floor" that are suitable for a Dining Hall.

The proprietors of CROSBY HALL have overcome these disadvantages by securing this splendid and spacious building, and they are confident that long and constant experience will enable them to inaugurate a new system of City Dinners which may, it is to be hoped, supersede the delay and discomfort to which those who frequent many of the public dining rooms are so often subjected. The reinstatement and restoration have been completed by Messrs. WALLACE GORDON AND Co., under the superintendence of Messrs. F. & H. FRANCIS, the eminent Architects. The decorations and stained glass are the work of Mr. ALEXANDER GIBBS, of Bedford Square.

THE LOBBY

is reached by the entrance in Bishopsgate Street, the WINE OFFICE occupying the niche on the left of the doorway. This entrance has been entirely refitted in a manner worthy of the building to which it leads, from designs by the Architects, while the decorations of the ceiling are considered very fine examples of that particular branch of art.

THE COUNCIL CHAMBER.

This fine and lofty apartment is entirely devoted to the GREAT LUNCHEON AND REFRESHMENT BAR which nearly surrounds it, and the ample accommodation afforded by this arrangement enables the proprietors to consult the convenience of the large number of their customers who dine at home, but require light refreshment in the middle of the day. To this fine apartment of the Ancient Palace has been added another of equal size which occupies the ground floor, the new premises forming the recent extensions and reaching from the old building to the corner of Great Saint Helen's. The decorations and architectural ornamentation of the new portion are carried out with equal effect to those of the more ancient building, while the great space made available for the complete and elegant service of Luncheons, and the provision of a special commodious TEA AND COFFEE COUNTER, secure accommodation not to be found elsewhere in the City. The Council Chamber is one of the handsomest Halls in the City of London; the historical wall paintings are themselves worth a visit, and from the large space at disposal, the surrounding counters, even when they are fully occupied by gentlemen at luncheon, leave complete access to

THE GREAT BANQUETING HALL,

a large and lofty building which is in reality "CROSBY HALL." This room is unequalled in London for beauty, its noble height and superb Gothic roof being in perfect accordance with its large proportions and those beautiful architectural decorations which have been preserved and restored.

As a matter of policy, the proprietors might have been induced to fit this truly grand Hall with a series of "boxes," but to use a common expression, they "could not find it in their heart to do it." They believe, however, that they have best consulted the comfort and the tastes of their customers by furnishing it with dining tables and chairs of a fashion in accordance with the general design of the building; and they sincerely hope that even in the table appointments the same character has been preserved as far as is consistent with complete convenience.

THE THRONE ROOM,

though of less noble proportions, is in some respects more beautiful than the BANQUETING HALL, and is decorated in the same style of

architecture. Its ancient ornamentation has been carefully preserved and as few adaptations as possible have been introduced. It is devoted to the convenience of those who desire to enjoy select dinners;—select, that is to say, *not* by the superiority of the viands, for these are of *one uniform quality* throughout the Establishment;—but apart from the greater business of the large Hall, and with a slight superiority in the appointments of the table, and the general luxury of the service.

Both here and in the great BANQUETING HALL there is a large GRILL for supplying CHOPS and STEAKS; but the capacious fire-places have been so adapted as to entirely keep out all smell of cooking from the rooms.

THE NEW SMOKING ROOM

at CROSBY HALL is a truly handsome and thoroughly comfortable apartment, which for convenience, as well as for its ample space and complete appliances, may be favourably compared with any in London—while as the style of decoration has been carefully assimilated to that of the palatial building of which it now forms a part, it may be regarded as a special attraction to visitors coming to the City and desiring to spend a quiet half-hour in a room which has been pronounced a *chef d'œuvre* of one of the most eminent artists who has made antique internal decoration his peculiar study. A description of this magnificent room will be found in the introduction to the present pamphlet. Gentlemen requiring to enjoy an after-dinner lounge or an hour of recreation, accompanied by a cigar of guaranteed brand and excellent quality, will here find a retreat entirely to their satisfaction. The tables are supplied with Chess, Draughts, and leading Periodicals, while Tea, Coffee, Chocolate, and other beverages are promptly and quietly served.

THE LAVATORY AND RETIRING ROOMS

for Gentlemen are in the space beneath the wide staircase leading from the NEW LUNCHEON HALL to the SMOKING ROOM, and will be found replete with every accommodation, including clean towels and all the usual accessories.

THE LADIES' BOUDOIR AND RETIRING ROOMS

are in a separate part of the building, and accessible only to Ladies, by a distinct staircase leading from the lobby in Bishopsgate Street. The proprietors of CROSBY HALL believe that Ladies dining in the City will appreciate the comfort of a select table in the THRONE ROOM or the BANQUETING HALL, especially as waitresses and not waiters are employed. THE BOUDOIR and LAVATORIES are furnished with every convenience for the toilet, under the charge of a *special* female attendant.

THE KITCHENS AND STORE ROOMS

occupy the upper part of the building, so that the odour of the preparation of food will not enter the public part of the Establishment. The whole of the culinary apparatus has been fitted by Messrs. BENHAM & SONS, whose names are a guarantee of efficiency in this department.

PROVISIONS.

It has often been asked why the cheap, varied, and well-served dinners of the great French Restaurants cannot be imitated in London, and the question is one well worth considering, especially as so many of us had an opportunity of making experiments during our visit to the Paris Exhibition.

The proprietors of CROSBY HALL have given the subject their most careful attention, and with considerable knowledge of the great French and German Establishments, as well as a long experience of English tastes and habits, have come to the conclusion that while much may be done in adopting the methods of "service," the variety of choice, and the regard to economy observed in the best foreign Restaurants, a complete revolution would have to take place in English tastes before they could accommodate themselves to an ordinary Parisian dinner day after day.

During a week's visit to a foreign Capital where everything, including the climate, is new and strange, and where that very newness constitutes the great holiday charm, we may thoroughly enjoy a series of experimental meals, but it would be quite another thing to adopt the same way of living at home. Indeed, it is quite certain that the few distinctly French and German Restaurants which have been established in London, either depend upon their native customers, or soon adopt a "Carte" including several of our well-known English dishes.

At CROSBY HALL, therefore, there will be a Bill of Fare containing *entrées* and viands of a *recherché* character, but in which the simplicity of an English dinner will be most obvious. The employment of first-rate cooks, and the completeness of all the culinary arrangements, will, however, insure the best method of preparing every article of food, so that the superior quality of our national *matériel* will have the advantage that properly belongs to it.

BEVERAGES.

The system, too often adopted, of urging every customer to partake of wine or ale with his dinner, is so repulsive, that the proprietors of CROSBY HALL wish it to be thoroughly understood that nobody will be *expected* to order anything "for the good of the house." Both the LUNCHEON BAR and the dining tables are supplied with pure filtered water, and as all the Wines, Spirits, and

Malt Liquors are of the best description, they will recommend themselves. Tea and Coffee are always ready at the REFRESHMENT COUNTER, as well as the usual aerated waters.

The Ale and Beer are supplied precisely as they are furnished by the best brewers, and will be so drawn as to ensure their being in fine condition, clear and sparkling.

With regard to Wines it is necessary to say a few words, not in the way of advertisement, for "good Wine needs no bush;" but in order to call attention to the fact that the proprietors are determined to give the public the full benefit of the remission of the duty by selling Light Wine, of excellent character and perfect purity, at a price to bring it within the means of all their customers. They have made arrangements by which a Bordeaux of excellent vintage—pure, sound, and of admirable quality—can be supplied at *fifteen pence a bottle, or eight pence the half bottle*; a large glass of the same wine may be had for *twopence*, and *threepence* is the charge for a glass of sound, pure, and wholesome Sherry. The CROSBY HALL WINES are specialities, to which reference may be made without undue praise, since the prices at which they are offered preclude any very remunerative profit. The proprietors rely on their excellent quality for obtaining a large demand, and they are confident that they will be fully appreciated.

First-class vintage Wines will be found in the Wine List, many of them of rare selection and great maturity; while the Spirits and Liqueurs are of the most celebrated brands.

ATTENDANCE.

The system adopted at CROSBY HALL being designed to overcome one of the most serious difficulties of daily occurrence to those who are engaged in the City, it became necessary to ensure not only a good and economical dinner, but such prompt and careful attendance as should at once save valuable time and secure general comfort.

Careful consideration of this subject resulted in the conviction that in such a large and, at the same time, such a compact establishment, an unusual opportunity would arise for the employment of women in one of the very few avocations which remain open to them in this country.

It is obvious that in no occupation can they be more properly employed than in that kind of domestic attendance which includes waiting at table, and it was therefore determined to employ *Waitresses* instead of Waiters at CROSBY HALL.

This is not mentioned as a first experiment, for the plan has been found eminently successful. The proprietors of CROSBY HALL have had considerable opportunities of obtaining the opinions of gentlemen dining in the City, and they bear almost unanimous testimony to the civility, quietude, and obliging attention, as well as to the promptitude of Waitresses wherever they have been employed.

It only remains to say that all the attendants at CROSBY HALL have furnished ample evidence of character and competency; and as they will be engaged fully in their daily business, no doubt is entertained that they will be treated with that respect and consideration which gentlemen accord to the female attendants whose duty it may be to wait on them at the houses at which they may be invited guests.

A definite charge for attendance is made of a penny for each person in the BANQUETING HALL, and of twopence in the THRONE ROOM, and will be received with the amount of the bill as the customer leaves the establishment, no further gratuity whatever being expected.

It is requested that any negligence on the part of the attendants be at once mentioned to the proprietors, who will guard against its recurrence.

WHOLESALE WINE DEPARTMENT.

As the Wines supplied at CROSBY HALL—and particularly the Light Wines, to which allusion has already been made—are highly appreciated by a numerous class of customers, arrangements have been made for supplying them, either by the *single bottle* or in any larger quantity, for home consumption. To suit the requirements of a large section of the public a single bottle is charged only at the same rate as at per dozen. Orders given at the Wine Office, in the lobby at the entrance in Bishopsgate Street, will receive immediate and careful attention.



A D D E N D A.



It will not be out of place in a New Edition of the History of CROSBY HALL to call attention to the Church which has always been intimately associated with the past glories and vicissitudes of the Ancient City Palace. The Church of Saint Helen, from its great antiquity, as well as for the remarkable and interesting memorials which it contains, is one of the most attractive ecclesiastical buildings in London. It was the church of the priory of the nuns of Saint Helen's, founded about 1216, by "William, the son of William the Goldsmith," and in the interior are the monuments of Sir John Crosby, Sir Thomas Gresham, John Lewenthorp, Sir William Pickering, Sir Andrew Judd, Sir Julius Cæsar, Sir John Spencer, Alderman Bond, and Francis Bancroft, the founder of the celebrated Almshouses, who, it is said, was "embalmed in a chest made with a lid, having a pair of hinges, "without any fastening, and a piece of square glass on the lid, "just over his face." The whole interior of the church of Saint Helen's is full of suggestion to the thoughtful visitor, and the recent restorations and improvements have greatly increased its attractions, while the magnificent stained glass windows that have been added to the sacred edifice are modern works eminently worthy of the objects of ancient art and the fine sculptures to be found within the walls. Of these windows one is in the memory of Sir Thomas Gresham, and has been contributed by the Gresham Committee, while two others have been erected at the expense of the family of Mr. McDougall. The magnificent window in memory of the late Alderman Sir William Copeland is a most striking work, but is not inferior in interest to the restoration which was made at the expense of the Churchwardens, Mr. Thomas Rolfe, jun., and Mr. George Richardson, of a beautiful window in stained glass, composed of the fragments of the ancient window, which was too dilapidated to remain. Several other fine memorial windows have been added to the building, amongst which are those contributed by the vicar, the Rev. J. E. Cox, and by Mr. W. Williams, of Great Saint Helen's, who has taken a deep interest in the work of restoration. Some other splendid examples of stained glass were contributed by Mr. Alderman Wilson and Mr. Deputy Jones; and the fine communion window was presented by Mr. Kirkman Hodgson, M.P., and his brother, Mr. James Stewart Hodgson. The tomb of Sir John Crosby has been renovated, as well as that of Sir John Spencer, which has been restored and removed under the direction of the Marquis of Northampton and Mr. Wodmore, who has himself contributed a window in memory of Bishop Robinson, and has superintended the entire restoration.

A very interesting account of the antiquities of this neighbourhood, as well as a historical sketch of CROSBY HALL, which contains some of the particulars included in the present pamphlet, appears in Mr. Timbs' recent "History of London and Westminster."

The Proprietors of CROSBY HALL hope that they may be allowed to express their thanks for a most kind and courteous letter from the Rev. CHARLES MACKENZIE, M.A., Prebendary of St. Paul's, who, in 1848, rented CROSBY HALL for the purpose of establishing, with the aid of some of his friends, those Metropolitan Evening Classes for Young Men, the value of which has been since so widely endorsed. On the 2nd of March, 1852, His Royal Highness the late Prince Consort visited CROSBY HALL for the purpose of inspecting the operation of these Classes, on which occasion he expressed himself much interested in the building. In 1860 the Evening Classes were removed to Sussex Hall, Leadenhall Street, where they have since developed into the City of London College, one of the most useful Educational Institutions of the present day.

Very sincere thanks are also due to the Rev. THOMAS HUGO, M.A., F.S.A., whose approval of the way in which the restoration and conservation of the Ancient City Palace had been effected was highly valued, and whose "Memoir of Crosby Place," which was read in CROSBY HALL before the members of the London and Middlesex Archæological Society in January, 1856, is sufficient proof that his veneration for the old building is the result of his well known appreciation of the beauty of Gothic architecture, and renders his approbation more than ordinarily valuable.

WINES.

IN consequence of the increased enquiry for Wines that have become almost identified with CROSBY HALL, and have given very general satisfaction, attention is requested to the fact that all the Wines supplied in the establishment may be obtained in single bottles or by the dozen. Amongst the most approved may be mentioned:—

	Per Bottle.	Per Dozen.
CLARET, No. 1, Bordeaux . . .	1/1	13/
CLARET, No. 2, St. Julien . . .	1/10	22/
CARLOVITZ, Hungarian, finest quality . .	2/6	30'
SHERRY, Pale Dinner, a sound Wine . .	2/3	27/
SHERRY, "Crosby Hall," (a fine dry Sherry now well known to the public) . . .	3/6	42/
PORT, a capital Wine from the wood . .	2/6	30/
PORT, Old, and well matured in the wood .	3/6	42/
CHAMPAGNE, "Crosby Hall," imported direct from the grower at Epernay . .	3/	36,
BURGUNDY, Red Sparkling, a very rare Wine	5/	60,

The SPIRITS at CROSBY HALL are of the highest quality and of guaranteed purity, and are offered at prices most advantageous to the consumer. The Wines in the following List will be found to be as carefully selected, and at equally moderate prices.

TARIFF FOR WINES—Wholesale.

(Including Bottles, which are expected to be returned.)

	Per Dozen.		
	Quarts.	Pints.	Bottles.
CLARET.			
1. Vin Ordinaire, a thoroughly wholesome Dinner Wine	13/	7/	1/1
2. S. Julien, a matured Wine	22/	12/	1/10
3. Pauillac	30/	16/	2/6
3A. Chateau Langoa	40/	—	3/4
RED BURGUNDY.			
5. Beaune, a soft and pleasant Dinner Wine	22/	12/	2/
6. Volnay, a full generous Wine	36/	20/	3/
WHITE BURGUNDY.			
7. Chablis	22/	12/	1/10
8. Do. superior	32/	18/	2/8
8A. Do. finest quality	54/	—	4/6
9. Sauterne	22/	12/	1/10
10. Do. superior	32/	18/	2/8
10A. Haute Sauterne	54/	—	4/6
RHINE WINE.			
11. Nierstein	24/	14/	2/
12. Rudesheim	36/	20/	3/
12A. Do. finest quality	48/	—	4/
13. Liebfraumilch	48/	—	4/
13A. Steinwein in Bocksbeutel	45/	—	3/9
SPARKLING WINES.			
14. Champagne, a thoroughly sound and wholesome Wine, Brand "Crosby Hall"	36/	20/	3/
14A. Champagne, Floret's, F. Gordon & Co., sole Consignees			
15. Do. Moet & Chandon's finest quality			
16. Do. Veuve Cliquot's do.			
16A. Do. Krug's, a dry Wine			
17. Do. Perrier Jouet's do.			
17A. Do. Heidsieck's Monopole			
18. Do. Roederer's Carte Blanche			
19. Burgundy, very fine quality			
20. Moselle or Hock do.			
SHERRY.			
21. Pale Dinner Wine	27/	15/	2/
22. Golden, full-flavored	30/	17/	2 6
22A. Old Brown, very fine quality	54/	29/	4 6
23. A full-bodied fruity Wine	42/	23/	3/6
24. "Crosby Hall," a very fine dry Wine	39/	21/	3/3
25. A very delicate Wine, medium flavour	40/	21/	3/4
26. Amentillado character	48/	26/	4/
26A. Amontillado, finest quality	60/	31/	5/
26B. Old Madeira, choice	72/	—	6/
PORT.			
27. A rich Wine, from the Wood	30/	17/	2/6
28. A tawny Wine, many years in the Wood	42/	23/	3/6
29. A capital bottled Wine	36/	20/	3/
29A. A crusted Wine, some years in bottle	48/	—	4/
30. A moderately dry old bottled Wine	54/	29/	4/6
31. A fine fruity do. do.	60/	32/	5/
31A. Martinez, 1858, rich and fruity	66/	35/	5/6
32. Cockburn's 1847	—	—	8/6
HUNGARIAN.			
34. Carlovitz Auslese, a fine generous Wine	27/	15/6	2/3
35. Villanyi Muscat, a delicate White Wine	27/	15/6	2/3
36. Steinbruch, a full-bodied White Wine	27/	15/6	2/3
SPIRITS.			
	Per Gallon.	Dozen.	Bottle.
Fine old Brandy	27/	54/	4/6
Finest Gin, Tanqueray's	15/	30/	2/6
Whiskey, Scotch, old and mellow	20/	40/	3/4
Do. Irish, do. do.	20/	40/	3/4
Rum, old Jamaica	20/	40/	3/4
Hollands, very fine quality	—	36/	3/

LIQUEURS AND OTHER DESCRIPTIONS OF SPIRITS AT EQUALLY MODERATE PRICES.



Entrances
32,
BISHOPSGATE
STREET
E.C.

THE MAGNIFICENT
ORIEL WINDOW IN THE
GREAT BANQUETING HALL.

AND
GT ST
HELENS,
E.C.